



# **Executive Summary**

**Crystal Lake Middle School**

**Broward County School District**

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## **Introduction**

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

## **Description of the School**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Crystal Lake Middle School (CLMS) is located in Pompano Beach, Florida in a low, socio-economic inner city area. The current total enrollment at Crystal Lake Middle is 1,351 students which includes the following Demographic breakdown: White: 234-17.3%; Black/African American 717-53.0%; Hispanic: 333-24.6%; Multi-Racial: 48- 3.55%; Asian: 14-1.03%; Native American/Native Indian: 4- 0.29%. There are 746 males and 605 females.

The CLMS staff consists of approximately 75 teachers and support staff and four administrators. Eighty percent are female and twenty percent are male. The languages fluently spoken by staff members other than English are Spanish, Portuguese, French, Haitian -Creole, and Chinese. The majority of the teachers are considered effective based on administrative evaluations with two being highly effective. The majority of community members consist of African-Americans with a low socio-economic status. Challenges are low parent participation at parent and academic nights and teacher/parent conferences. Another challenge is the language barrier at times with teachers/staff and parents.

Crystal Lake Middle School is a Title I school with 88% of the students who qualify for free and reduced lunch and the majority of the population is minority students. In addition, we are also a dual magnet and STEM school. Our magnet programs are International Affairs and Business (IAB) and Engineering and Environmental Sciences. Students enrolled in the IAB program study Chinese, French and Spanish languages and the cultures associated with the peoples living in these regions. These students also receive a business, elective class, which enables them to compare domestic and foreign trade policies. Students enrolled in the Engineering and Environmental Sciences programs receive a double-block of science courses (CLMS is the only middle school in the county that offers this allotted time for science studies). Students build and program robots, research how to solve environmental concerns, use architectural, computer programs to design bridges and other structures, create and launch various types of rockets, design underwater habitats and more.

CLMS is also a whole, STEM school. Every child receives hands-on, STEM instruction and has the opportunity to complete high school courses in order to prepare them to become college and career ready.

## **School's Purpose**

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

At Crystal Lake Middle School all students have the opportunity to participate in the STEM program. Students have the opportunity to receive hands-on, project-based learning instruction in their classrooms.

The mission of Crystal Lake Middle, a dual magnet school, is to provide a safe and secure learning environment while affording a relevant, rigorous, standards based education. In order for all of our students to become productive members of a 21st century global society, we empower our students to excel academically, socially, and emotionally despite the challenges they encounter. Our STEM Program provides students the opportunity to participate in state of the art technology and hands-on instruction. STEM goals and objectives are included in our School Improvement Plan (SIP), which align with our Curriculum, Assessment, Remediation, Enrichment (CARE) curriculum for grades 6-8.

CLMS offers students the opportunity to experience project-based learning that introduces them to the topics involved in STEM education/careers; the students are expected to pursue these types of classes in high school and college, and later as careers. This equates to students benefiting from the types of skills learned in innovating classes and be more adequately prepared for programs at the high school and college level in order to have a better opportunity to pursue a related career.

CLMS students gain hands-on experience in a field that is traditionally underrepresented by minorities because they receive early exposure to skills such as Computer Applications, Debate, Broadcasting, Multimedia, Civil Air Patrol, Band, Orchestra, and Physical Fitness.

Crystal Lake Middle makes it a priority to provide parents with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of what their children are doing by offering Parental Academic workshops, Parent University, and establishing and maintaining successful relationships with all stakeholders.

CLMS mission and beliefs that all students can learn and succeed is evident in the many diverse educational course offerings and extra-curricular activities such as Civil Air Patrol, Debate Club, Drama Club, Environmental Club, FFEA Club, Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders, National Junior Honor Society, Robotics Team, Science Honor Society SECME, Student Ambassadors, Student Council Club and Youth Crime Watch. Our sports programs include Boys and Girls Soccer, Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Track and Cheerleading.

## **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

Over the last three years, Crystal Lake Middle School has achieved a plethora of accolades. In terms of academics a looping team of students has been implemented in order to raise achievement scores. Learning Goals and Scales have been put into practice within the school for teachers and students to track academic growth. Working within our sub cadre we have been able to develop common formative assessments using USA Test Prep for all academic areas in order to gather data on student achievement in key benchmarks. CLMS provides such initiatives as Reading Plus, Achieve 3000, Sunbay (math) and Gizmo (math and science simulations). Students are also able to leave Crystal Lake Middle School with High School credits in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I, Spanish I/II, French I/II, Chinese I/II, Debate and online courses. Also, CLMS has been able to successfully obtain a whole school STEM program.

In support of Broward County School District's Black Male Initiative Crystal Lake Middle School successfully started in 2014-2015 Mentors for Tomorrow's Leaders and Women's Mentors for Tomorrow's leaders. These programs enables 8th grade students the opportunity to mentor 6th and 7th grade students on academics and behavior needs, preparing them to be college and career ready. In 2014-2015 this group was able to visit Washington D.C. and in the 2015-2016 year they will be visiting New York City, where they will see a Broadway show, visit the 911 museum and more.

Three community partners that have taken an active role in the achievement of students on Crystal Lake Middle School's campus are the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), Rights of Passage and Firewall. CLMS and MODS received an \$ 83,000 grant to provide an on-site, afterschool program that staff teachers who provide homework assistance and MODS employees who deliver exciting, hands-on lessons. This same program is providing 50 students the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center.

The Rights of Passage is a mentoring program for males. This program teaches young males to be leaders in life so they can be successful. Firewall is an afterschool program that provides tutoring for students who are struggling in core academics and mentoring.

Crystal Lake Middle School has been able to support student achievement through various grants awarded to the school. In the past two years we have been awarded \$6000 through the Mary Turner Frances grant for student-made poetry books and technology for the garden project. A SeaPerch underwater submersible grant was awarded through the Navy in the amount of \$1,785. Students built an underwater submersible using circuit boards, PVC and motors. The SeaPerch was launched in the otter pool at the Museum of Discovery and Science. We have been awarded approximately \$5200 in Broward Education Foundation grants towards our urban garden, programed robots, aeroponic towers and 3-D printers. The school has been awarded \$2850 in a Fuel Up 360 grant to teach nutrition and fitness to the students.

The robotics club was award a \$5000 Lego Robotics grant to purchase VEX robots and hire staff to teach students how to program robots. A DART grant was awarded in the sum of \$1,500 for the green house on campus. In the past two-year we were awarded \$500 from The Air Force Association to build rockets in Civil Air Patrol.

In the last three years Crystal Lake Middle school has become the top school in Broward County for HERO implementation. HERO is a computer based, positive behavior plan being utilized throughout the school. Teachers, students and parents are able to monitor student's behavior points for incentive purposes.

Crystal Lake Middle would like to increase their community partners' involvement by 30% in the next three years. By gaining community partners and working diligently with existing community partners we believe student achievement will increase. We plan on achieving this initiative by re-establishing the Community Partners Committee on campus in the 2016-2017 school year.

## **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

Crystal Lake Middle School's magnet Pre-Engineering and Science program is currently being redesigned for the 2016-2017 school year. The program will now incorporate an Engineering track as well as an Environmental track. Students will still be awarded a two-hour block in science with one of the blocks focusing on research and project-based learning. The Science magnet program recently received \$35,000, which has allowed three new laptops carts to be purchased specifically for the magnet science programs.

Over the last three years Crystal Lake Middle School's robotics teams have won at regional tournaments and obtained state bids. In 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 robotics teams from Crystal Lake Middle School were state winners. Crystal Lake Middle School had a state Science Fair winner in 2012-2013 and four students placed at the county level and went to the state science fair level in the 2013-2014 school year.

Through the Civil Air Patrol program on campus we had cadets graduate from Winter Encampment (stay on a military base and train with the military). Cadets have graduated from Cadet Training Academy, which teaches leadership skills. The Civil Air Patrol elective has grown on campus to now include after school involvement from students who were not able to have the elective included into their schedule.

Crystal Lake Middle School provides students with many opportunities outside of the classroom to thrive as a growing student. Students are able to join basketball, cheerleading, soccer, track, volleyball, and flag football teams. A few of the clubs on campus are National Junior Honor Society, Science Junior Science Society, Robotics, SECME, Environmental Club, Poetry Club, Student Council, Drama Club, Dance Team, Fitness and Nutrition, Cougar Ambassadors and Civil Air Patrol.